

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 SCSE-00 VA-01 L-03 /011 W

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R 181335Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2206

UNCLAS ATHENS 0396

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CFED

SUBJECT: HEALTH CARE FOR DISABLED AMERICAN VETERAN

GEORGE JACKSON C 17 995 511

REF: STATE 009631

THE SUBJECT VETERAN FIRST VISITED THE EMBASSY ON NOVEMBER 23, 1973. AT THAT TIME HE REQUESTED AUTHORIZATION FOR OUTPATIENT MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR HIMSELF AND HIS DEPENDENTS, FOR PURCHASING, ON A REIMBURSEMENT BASIS FROM LOCAL EXCHANGE, 220V TRANSFORMER FOR HIS ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR, FOR REPLACING BOTH ARMRESTS ON HIS HAND-DRIVEN WHEELCHAIR, AND FOR PURCHASING GAS COUPONS FOR HIS VA PROVIDED CAR

SINCE THE EMBASSY HAD NO PREVIOUS RECORDS TO SUBSTANTIATE FACT THAT VETERAN'S DISABILITY WAS SERVICE CONNECTED, AN OM WAS DISPATCHED TO VA ON NOV 23 TO OBTAIN THE REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION NOTE THAT WHEN VETERAN VISITED THE EMBASSY ON NOV 23, HE ALREADY HAD PX CARD IN HIS POSSESSION. THEREFORE, HE WAS NOT REFUSED COMMISSARY AND EXCHANGE PRIVILEGES AS ALLEGED. HOWEVER, HE WAS ADVISED THAT IN CONNECTION WITH THE MEDICAL CARE AND APPLIANCES AUTHORIZATION FROM VA WAS NECESSARY.

ON DEC 20, THE VA ADVISED THAT "AS SOON AS MR. JACKSON'S SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITY HAS BEEN VERIFIED," THE VETERAN'S I.D. CARD (VA FORM 1174) AND AUTHORIZATION FOR REPAIRS AND REPLACEMENT PARTS FOR HIS WHEELCHAIR WOULD BE FORWARDED. IT ALSO ADVISED THAT THE VA DOES NOT ISSUE GAS COUPONS TO

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VETERANS RESIDING EITHER IN THE U.S. OR FOREIGN COUNTRY.

ON JAN 2, 1974 THE EMBASSY RECEIVED THE VA FORM 1174F
AND THE AUTHORIZATION FOR REPAIRS.

A FIRST VOUCHER FOR MEDICAL SERVICES RECEIVED BY THE VETERAN
AND FOR THE TRANSFORMER WAS SUBMITTED FOR REIMBURSEMENT
ON JAN 8.

WE HAVE ADVISED THE VETERAN THAT PUBLIC LAW 9382 DOES NOT
PERTAIN TO VETERANS LIVING IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY AND THAT,
THEREFORE, HIS DEPENDENTS ARE NOT ENTITLED TO MEDICAL
SERVICES (STATE AIRGRAM A-139 DATED JAN 8, 1974 ALSO SUPPORTED
BY VA'S NOTIFICATION OF DEC 20). VETERAN DOES NOT AGREE WITH
INTERPRETATION OF PL 9382 AND INSISTS THAT HIS DEPENDENTS ARE
ENTITLED TO MEDICAL CARE WHILE IN GREECE.

AT THE VETERAN'S INSISTENCE, ON JAN 8 THE VA WAS ASKED VIA
OM TO PROVIDE A COPY OF PL 9382. NO REPLY RECEIVED TO DATE.

AS EVIDENCED BY THE ABOVE, THE ALLEGATION THAT THE ATHENS
EMBASSY EMPLOYEE REFUSED THE VETERAN HEALTH CARE FOR HIMSELF
AS WELL AS COMMISSARY AND EXCHANGE PRIVILEGES IS UNFOUNDED AND
UNFAIR. AS TO THE MEDICAL CARE FOR HIS DEPENDENTS, THE
REFUSAL IS PROVIDED BY PL 9382 AND NOT THE EMPLOYEE.
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